

May 28, 1998

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director's Report.

Material in the Mailing Packet:

Update on Pending State Legislation: Lori Clamurro prepared the analysis of pending State legislation for Commission information. Please note SB 1075, the bill that would extend the Commission's sunset date, was approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on Thursday, May 21, and is headed for the floor of the Assembly for approval.

Update on Grassland Bypass Project Monitoring: Lori Clamurro has also been monitoring the reports on the Grassland Bypass project, and attended a workshop on Thursday, May 28. The charts accompanying the memo show the actual selenium loads in black, and the prescribed limited in the striped pattern.

Announcement of Agricultural Waterfowl Incentive Program: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages this CVPIA program to offset costs to landowners associated with winter flooding of agricultural land. The funds are to bring new agricultural lands into the flooding program.

San Joaquin County Habitat Conservation Plan: The Plan was recently forwarded to the COG Board for review and adoption. The report includes a summary of the overall plan, and a two page summary of the impacts to agriculture.

CALFED Summary Document: CALFED has released a new, short summary document describing the alternatives. Additional copies are available from staff.

Handouts at the Meeting:

CALFED Revised Schedule for Environmental Document: CALFED has extended the comment period to July 1, 1998, and will release a revised draft environmental document in late fall, with a preferred alternative. Additional public hearings will be held. The final environmental document will be approved mid-1999.

Update on Pending Legislation.

Update on Grassland Bypass Project.

Other Announcements:

CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Project Grants: A new round of applications is being solicited, the applications are due July 2.

Prop 204 Public Access Funds: Prop 204 set aside two million dollars for improving public access and recreation in the Delta to be administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Half was made available in grants to local governments and non-profits; only two applications were submitted and the funds are being split between East Bay Regional Park District to acquire lands in the Secondary Zone near Discovery Bay for a park; and Nature Conservancy for acquisition and reflooding of McCormack-Williamson Tract in the Primary Zone as part of its Cosumnes River watershed enhancement program.

The Parks Department is still developing a list of projects which may include: upgrading the campsites at Brannan Island State Park; windsurfer access improvements at Windy Cove; a new visitor center at Brannan Island State Park; and some minimal improvements at Delta Meadows behind Locke.

Sacramento Splittail Hearings: U.S. Fish and Wildlife is reopening the public comment period for Sacramento Splittail, a proposed threatened species. The last comment period closed in 1995; the comment period is reopened until July 17.

Ducks Unlimited Reports: DU has released three more technical reports for private land managers in the Central Valley: Ecology and Conservation of Chinook Salmon in the Central Valley; The Mallard; and Disturbance as a Component of Waterfowl Habitat Quality.

Agricultural Conservation Easements: Department of Conservation has announced availability of funds for acquisition of agricultural land conservation easements. Federal funds are available and additional State funds are proposed in the next State budget.

Staff Activities:

Margit Aramburu: GIS class, Great Valley Center conference, Delta Levees and Habitat Advisory Committee meetings; CALFED Levees Committee; Legislative Hearings on SB 1075; Sacramento County Ad Hoc Committee re: Packard Foundation Grants; CVHJV subcommittee regarding CALFED ecosystem restoration program and CVHJV programs; San Joaquin County Habitat Conservation Plan work group; CALFED Subsidence Technical Group; Sacramento County Delta Levees Road Task Force; CALFED DEIR Public Hearings in Walnut Grove, Pittsburg and Stockton; presentation to Solano County Board of Supervisors re: CALFED; participated in a half hour radio interview about CALFED; met with the Solano Yolo Farm Bureaus regarding CALFED; and was invited to tour the Cosumnes Preserve with the Attorney General's Land Law division by Mr. Frank.

Lori Clamurro: Innumerable CALFED meetings including the Supersession on the environmental document; workshop on Grasslands Bypass Project; In Channel Island Work Group; and SFEP Implementation Committee.

Response to Commissioner Questions:

At the last meeting, Commissioner Salmon asked about possible impacts to Victoria Island associated with the Interim South Delta Project; DWR staff Steve Roberts said the IDP does not affect water levels or stages around Victoria Island. This question will be answered in detail in the Final environmental document.